

**BRIDGEVALLEY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

POLICY C-9

FRESHMAN ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT STANDARDS

Section 1. General.

- 1.1. Scope – This policy establishes freshman assessment and placement standards for BridgeValley Community and Technical College (BridgeValley) in assignment to initial credit-bearing courses in mathematics and English.
- 1.2. Authority – W. Va. Code §18B-2B-6; West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education Series 21
- 1.3. Effective Date – July 12, 2013

Section 2. Policy.

- 2.1. The policy, *Freshman Assessment and Placement Standards*, for students in West Virginia public colleges and universities was developed to assure the integrity of associate and baccalaureate degrees, to increase the retention and graduation rates of students, and to encourage high school students to improve their academic preparation for college. The standards for freshman assessment and placement are designed to establish uniform procedures for the placement of students in credit-bearing courses in mathematics and English which can be applied toward an undergraduate academic degree.

Section 3. Definitions.

- 3.1. Developmental Education.

Developmental education programs and services commonly address academic preparedness, diagnostic assessment and placements, development of general and discipline-specific learning strategies, and affective barriers to learning. Developmental courses are “pre-college” courses and do not count toward a baccalaureate degree, an A.A. degree, an A.S. degree, or an A.A.S. degree.

Developmental education includes, but is not limited to all forms of learning assistance, such as tutoring, mentoring, and supplemental instruction; personal, academic, and career counseling; academic advisement; and coursework.

3.2. Stretch Courses.

Stretch courses are credit-bearing courses that extend over one or two semesters, to give more time to those students who may need additional experience in college-level mathematics or writing. Stretch courses are designed for English or math students who are capable, but who might need more time. Course materials are the same as those in the traditional course, but additional activities, tutorials, etc. are provided in an extended delivery format.

Section 4. Mathematics.

4.1. Students may not enroll in a mathematics course which is designed to be applied toward an A.A., A.S. or A.A.S. degree at BridgeValley unless the minimum score prescribed below is earned on one of the following tests:

4.1.a. A score of 19 on the mathematics section of the American College Testing Program's ACT Assessment Test.

4.1.b. A score of 460 on the quantitative portion of the College Board's Scholastic Assessment (SAT-1).

4.1.c. A scaled score of 40 on the numerical test and 38 on the elementary algebra test of the American College Testing Program's Assessment of Skills for Successful Entry and Transfer (ASSET).

4.1.d. A scaled score of 59 on the pre-algebra test and a scaled score of 36 on the algebra test of the American College Testing Program's Computerized Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS).

4.1.e. A scaled score of 85 on the arithmetic test and 84 on the elementary algebra test of the College Board's ACCUPLACER Testing System.

4.1.f. Nationally-normed test scores, such as the Mathematical Association of America Basic Algebra test, with Chancellor's approval.

4.2. Students not meeting this standard must successfully complete a program or programs in developmental (pre-college level) mathematics in order to be placed in mathematics courses which count toward an A.A. degree, an A.S. degree, or an A.A.S. degree. BridgeValley may require students who do not meet the standard to complete such courses at another institution or design equivalent coursework, such as stretch courses, or programs with approval of the Council/Chancellor, as a pre-requisite to freshman placement.

4.3. A transfer student who has successfully completed the developmental course or its

equivalent may enroll in a credit-bearing course in mathematics or transfer to another West Virginia state college or university and shall be deemed to have met the placement standard at BridgeValley and shall not be required to enroll in a developmental course or its equivalent at a West Virginia state college or university in mathematics. The assessment measure and score by which the student met the placement standard in mathematics shall be recorded on the student's transcript.

Section 5. English Composition.

- 5.1. Students may not enroll in an English composition course which is designed to be applied toward an A.A., A.S, or A.A.S. degree at BridgeValley unless the minimum score prescribed below is earned on one of the following tests:
 - 5.1.a. A score of 18 on the English section of the ACT.
 - 5.1.b. A score of 450 on the verbal portion of the SAT-1.
 - 5.1.c. A scaled score of 38 on the writing skills test of the ASSET.
 - 5.1.d. A scaled score of 71 on the English Skills test of the American College Testing Programs Computerized Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS).
 - 5.1.e. A scaled score of 88 on the Sentence Skills test of the College Board's ACCUPLACER Testing System.
 - 5.1.f. Satisfactory performance on a writing sample administered by BridgeValley, with Chancellor's approval.
- 5.2. Students not meeting this standard must successfully complete a program or programs in developmental (pre-college level) English composition in order to be placed in English composition courses which count toward an A.A. degree, an A.S. degree, or an A.A.S. degree. BridgeValley may require students who do not meet the standard to complete such courses at another institution or design equivalent coursework, such as stretch courses, or programs with approval of the Council Chancellor as a pre-requisite to freshman placement.
- 5.3. A transfer student who has successfully completed the developmental course or its equivalent may enroll in a credit-bearing course in English or transfer to another West Virginia state college or university and shall be deemed to have met the placement standard at BridgeValley and shall not be required to enroll in a developmental course or its equivalent at a West Virginia state college or university in English. The assessment measure and score by which the student met the placement standard in English shall be recorded on the student's transcript.

Section 6. Reading.

- 6.1. Students scoring 17 on the reading section of the ACT, 420 or above on the verbal section of the SAT-1, 36 on the reading skills test of the ASSET, 30 percentile above on the Nelson-Denny Reading Test, 75 on the reading test of the American College Testing Programs Computerized Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS), or 79 on the Reading Comprehensive test of the College Board's ACCUPLACER Testing System will be considered to have met minimal reading skill requirements at those institutions which have developmental programs in reading.
- 6.2. BridgeValley will endeavor to provide assistance for students who do not meet the standard and who are enrolled in a program leading to an associate degree.
- 6.3. A student having met the placement standard in reading on transfer to another West Virginia state college or university shall be deemed to have met the placement standard at BridgeValley and shall not be required to enroll in a developmental course in reading. The assessment measure and score by which the student met the placement standard in reading shall be recorded on the student's transcript.